



MEO NEWS & NOTES

“Dedicated to Making A Difference”



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“SPECIAL EDITION”

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Month”

We Remember



The Strength of Our Team!

Staff News:

*SSgt J. Myers, NCOIC will be
Deployed until Dec 02.*



MEO Perspective

The military is not just another employer, and military service is not just another job. The Armed Forces were established to defend the nation against enemies foreign and domestic. Military service requires a high level of professional skill, a 24 hour a day commitment, and a willingness to give the last full measure of devotion. It is an uncommon profession that calls for people of uncommon dedication. A Service member's first obligation is to fulfill his or her assigned mission. Missions, however, are not assigned to individuals but to units, and the success of missions depends in large measure on the degree of trust and understanding that exists among people in units. Military personnel often find themselves in situations where a moment's hesitation about another member of the team—can mean disaster. Trust in your fellow service member and accomplish the mission together.

DoD policy on Equal Opportunity and Treatment requires every service member to promote an environment free from personal, social, or institutional barriers that prevent Service members from rising to the

highest level of responsibility possible. Service members shall be evaluated only on individual merit, fitness and capability. Unlawful discrimination against persons or groups based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin is contrary to good order and discipline and is counterproductive to combat readiness and mission accomplishment.

Special Observance
Hispanic-American
Heritage Month

***“Strength in Unity, Faith
and Diversity”***

**Famous Hispanic Contributors
and Contributions**

Hispanic Americans have made significant contributions to the development of our nation since the earliest times. While Admiral David Farragut, a Hispanic American, became famous as the victor in the battles of New Orleans and Mobile Bay during the Civil War, Farragut's father also served in the American cause. George Anthony Nagin Farragut was a Spaniard who came to America in 1775. As the master of a small trading ship, he offered his services to the Revolution.

The American Revolution

Although Spain was a strong colonial power in North America in the 1700s, the Spanish defeat in the Seven Years War led to the parceling of land to the English in the Spanish Colony of Florida. Spain, therefore, felt no loyalty to the British Monarchy during the course of the American Revolution. Despite negotiations with the Continental Congress, both sides could agree on the fate of Florida and

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therefore Spain played no overt role in aiding the American colonist. Nevertheless, several Hispanic forefathers, like the father of David Farragut, provided discrete or covert aid to the colonist. Another such man was Bernardo de Galvez, a Spanish Army Officer and Governor of Louisiana in 1777.

From 1775-77, de Galvez provided rations and weapons to the Continental Army. In 1777, he arranged safe passage for James Willing, an American agent of the Continental congress, who had led a successful campaign along the Mississippi harassing British shipping, plantation owners and military outposts. Taking advantage of weaknesses in the British defenses and Spanish recognition of American Independence in 1779, de Galvez captured all the British forts along the Mississippi from Lake Pontchartrain to Baton Rouge. He later defeated all British forces in Florida and restored control of this region to Spain. For his contribution, de Galvez has been memorialized on a U.S. stamp and a statue in Washington, DC and in his namesake city of Galveston, Texas.

Post-Revolutionary War

One of de Galvez 's officers, Francisco de Miranda, also played an important role in the defeat of the British on the Mississippi and the capture of the port of Pensacola. Ultimately a revolutionary himself, de Miranda left the Spanish army and led a campaign against Spanish colonialism while living in North America and Europe. In 1805, he led an American-sanctioned invasion of Venezuela and is credited with the title of "Precursor of Latin American Independence." Hispanic Americans joined General Andrew Jackson in defeating the British during the War of 1812.

Texas-Mexican Frontier

The next conflict involving Hispanics in American history took place over territorial disputes between Mexico and the Republic of Texas. When Mexican general and self-proclaimed President Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna attacked the Alamo on March 6, 1835, 183

Texans were killed, six of them Mexicans. Of 11 survivors of the battle at the Alamo, 10 were Hispanics.

California-Mexican Frontier

One of the most interesting Hispanic figures of this period in American history is Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo. Born of the upper class in 1808, Vallejo grew up during the turbulent years of the Mexican Revolution. An accomplished Mexican army officer by age 21, he gained the confidence of the Mexican governor and was named military commander of northern California. During the same period, he became a member of the territorial legislature and delegate to the Mexican Congress. Despite these ties to his native Mexico, Vallejo believed it would be in the best interests of the California territories to yield their sovereignty to the U.S. He shifted loyalties and discretely helped Americans secure California. Later appointed as an agent for the U.S. government he became one of eight Californians to write the state's first constitution and became one of the first members of the state senate in 1849. For his role in the westward expansion of America, Vallejo has been highly recognized. The city of Vallejo, California was named in his honor, a vineyard produces wines with his name, and, in 1965 the U.S. Navy commissioned the nuclear-powered fleet ballistic missile submarine USS M.G. Vallejo (SSBN 658), one of "the forty-one for freedom," in honor of this distinguished Hispanic.

The Civil War

In 1863, the U.S. government established four military companies of Mexican American Californian (the first Battalion of Native Cavalry) to utilize their "extraordinary horsemanship." At least 469 Mexican Americans served under Major Salvador Vallejo, helping to defeat a Confederate invasion of New Mexico.

The first Hispanic to receive the Medal of Honor was a U.S. Navy sailor named John Ortega, who was awarded the nation's highest award for valor during the Civil War.

The Spanish American War

During the Spanish American War there were several Hispanic members of Theodore Roosevelt's "Rough Riders." Captain Maximiliano Luna was the most distinguished Hispanic "rough Rider." A military camp in New Mexico was named after him. After the Spanish American War, George Armijo, another Hispanic "Rough Rider," became a member of Congress.

World War I

It was not until 1989 that the first Hispanic recipient of the Medal of Honor in WWI was recognized in a ceremony during Hispanic Heritage Week. David Barkley was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously for bravery in action on the Meuse River, France, in November 1918. Barkley's Hispanic background did not come to light until 71 years after he gave his life for his country.

World War II

Estimates range anywhere from 250,000 to 500,000 as the number of Hispanics who served in the Armed Forces during WWII (2.5 – 5 percent of the total force). Records are sketchy because, like the Census Bureau, the military did not closely track Hispanic members. Also, Puerto Ricans were not counted as Hispanic, but as Puerto Ricans. Over 53,000 Puerto Ricans served in the Armed Forces during WWII. Hispanics did not serve in segregated units like Black soldiers did, with one exception—the Puerto Rican 65th Infantry Regiment. However, Hispanic soldiers participated in all the major battles of WWII.

The New Mexico National Guard, with its large representation of Hispanics, became the largest single American unit in the Philippines. Their knowledge of Spanish was a definite asset as Spanish was a principle language in the Philippines. Because of this presence, many Hispanic Americans were taken prisoner during the fall of the Philippines and participated in the "Bataan Death March."

The Korean War

During the Korean War, nine Hispanics received the Medal of Honor.

The Puerto Rican 65th Infantry Division was the only all-Hispanic Division to serve during the Korean War. It earned four Distinguished Service Crosses and 124 Silver Stars.

The Vietnam War

Over 80,000 Hispanics served in the Armed Forces in Vietnam.

A figure, often given, states that while Hispanics made up only five percent of the U.S. population during the Vietnam era, they comprised 19 percent of the casualties in the war. Tony Morales, of the American G.I. Forum, points out that 27 percent of the names on the Vietnam Memorial are Hispanic.

Hispanic Recipients of the Medal of Honor

Civil War

Joseph DeCastro, Phillip Bazar, John Ortega

Boxer Rebellion (China)

France Silva

World War I

David Barkeley

World War II

Joseph Martinez, Rudolph Davilla
Lucian Adams, Marcario Garcia
Jose Lopez, Jose Valdez, Cleto
Rodreguez, Manual Perez, Jr.,
Silvestre Herrera, Ysmeal Villegas,
Harold Gonzales, Alejandro Ruiz

Korea

Baldermo Lopez, Eugene Obregon,
Joseph Rodriguez, Rodolfo Hernandez,
Edward Gomez, Benito Martinez,
Ambrosio Guillen

Vietnam

Daniel Fernandez, Euripides Rubio,
Maximo Yabes, Carlos Lozada, Alfredo
Gonzales, Jay R. Vargas, Roy P.
Benavidez, Hector Santiago-Colon,
Jose F. Jimenez, Ralph E. Dias, Emilio
DeLaGarza, Miguel Keith, Louis R.
Rocco, Alfred Rascon

Desert Shield/Desert Strom

approximately 20,000 Hispanic service members participated in Operation DESERT SHIELD/STORM.

Hispanics comprised 7.9 percent of the Fleet Marine Force, 6 percent of the Navy, 4.2 percent of the Army and 3.1 percent of the Air Force of those who served in the Persian Gulf theatre during the war.

Hispanic Participation in Today's Military

Today, Hispanic participation in all branches of the military is substantial. As of March 1998, 7% (100,191) of those serving on active duty were Hispanic. The highest representation was in the Marine Corps with 11.2% (19,242), which was followed by the Navy at 8.1% (30,638), the Army at 6.7% (32,050), the Coast Guard at 6.4% (2,181), and the Air Force at 4.4% (16,080). In 1998, seven Hispanics held the rank of general officer with more than half (4) serving in the Air Force! There were also 450 Hispanics serving in the highest noncommissioned officer rank (E-9). The Military and civilian contributions of Hispanics reflect a deep commitment to the basic American principles of Freedom and democracy. With projected increase in their population, Hispanics have the opportunity to make an even greater impact on society in the future.

The above information provided by the Directorate of Research, DEOMI

**In Celebration of Hispanic-American
Heritage Month
Team Hanscom's HAH Month
committee will host the following
events:**

**Latino Cuisine
Thursdays, 19 Sept – 10 October
1100hrs
Minuteman Club**

**Base Theatre
La Bamba, 21 Sept , 1300
Desperado, 12 Oct 1300**

**Bilingual Catholic Mass
28 Sept 02, 1700hrs
Base Chapel**

**Latin Nite
4 Oct 02
2100
Patriot Club**

**Children's Fiesta
1130
Youth Center
Base Theatre**

**Hispanic-American Heritage
Luncheon
15 Oct 02
1130-1330 hrs
Minuteman Club**

**For More information contact
2Lt Valerie Avila @ 3-9249**

Wanted**

**Special Observances committees
are looking for hard working Team
Hanscom members (to include
active duty, civilians, retirees, and
family members) to assist in
organizing and staging special
observance events. The Hispanic-
American Heritage Month
Committee is looking for members
to assist with the 2002 Celebration.
So, come out, get involved, and
have fun. If interested contact
2Lt Avila at ext
3-9249**



**Check out the our new
MEO Website
@<https://abw.hanscom.af.mil/me/>.**